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Mark Kaminsky (left), accused by Reds as spy, is shown with companion Harvey Bennett in Vienna after expulsion from Russia.

(UPI RADIOphoto)

Yank Tells How Reds Grabbed Him as Spy

VIENNA, Oct. 18 (AP). — A young American tourist said today he was convicted of espionage in the Soviet Union after he admitted traveling through Russia to gather material for a book on the Kremlin's preparations for war.

Mark I. Kaminsky, 28, whose family lives on a farm near Niles, Mich., arrived here last night by way of Czechoslovakia from the Soviet Union, where he received a seven-year sentence Sept. 16 on spy charges. The Russians suspended the sentence and last week expelled Kaminsky and his traveling companion, Harvey C. Bennett, 26, of Tracy, Cal.

"I did not carry out espionage nor did I confess to espionage," Kaminsky told a news conference today. "I did confess, though, that

I was getting material for a book."

HE EXPLAINED that under Soviet law it is considered espionage to gather the material he collected—"such facts as that there are soldiers everywhere in Russia." He said the subject of the survey was: "The Soviet Union talks peace while preparing for war."

The Soviet news agency Tass said Bennett denounced Kaminsky as a spy during the trial. Bennett denied this today and said: "I explained to the Russians that Mark was writing a book and that was why he gathered information. But I had to agree that this was not the sort of activity a normal tourist would do."

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